

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 1 has been amended, and claim 13 has been newly added. Support for the amendments is provided for example in the original claims and the specification on page 18, lines 8-14.

Claims 3, 4, 6-8, and 10-12 stand withdrawn as being directed toward non-elected subject matter.

Claims 1, 2, 5, and 9 were rejected, under 35 USC § 102(b), as being anticipated by Takayoshi et al. (JP 2000-165995). To the extent these rejections may be deemed applicable to the amended claims, the Applicants respectfully traverse based on the points set forth below.

Amended claim 1 defines an ultrasonic probe having a heat conduction material within a backing load member. The claimed subject matter supports reducing the heat radiated from the ultrasonic probe to a patient so that more power may be applied to the probe, thereby increasing the diagnostic depth of the ultrasonic radiation (see specification page 4, lines 5-19, and page 5, lines 12-17). (References herein to the specification and drawings are for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention to the referenced embodiments.)

The Office Action proposes Takayoshi discloses a heat conduction material placed inside a backing load member 6 (see Office Action section 3). However, Takayoshi discloses, in Fig. 3, that heat conduction material 7 is located on a side wall of backing load member 6 (see Takayoshi paragraphs [0017], [0044], and [0045]). Thus, Takayoshi does not identically

disclose the instant claimed subject matter of disposing a heat conduction material inside a backing load member.

Accordingly, the Applicants submit that Takayoshi does not anticipate the subject matter defined by claim 1. Independent claim 2 similarly recites the above-mentioned subject matter distinguishing claim 1 from Takayoshi. Therefore, allowance of claims 1 and 2 and all claims dependent therefrom is deemed to be warranted.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

/James Edward Ledbetter/

Date: December 18, 2008
JEL/DWW/att

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